

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 9-13 and 17. Claims 1-31 are currently pending in this application.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

I. SUMMARY OF OFFICE

The Examiner rejected claims 11-13 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because, in the Examiner's opinion, the claims failed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-10, 14-16 and 21-31 are in condition for allowance.

II. REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Applicant amended claims 10, 11, 13 and 17 in response to the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Although the Examiner indicated in the outstanding Office Action that claims 9 and 10 are in condition for allowance, Applicant made a minor amendment to further clarify the term "inlet".

In responding to the rejections, Applicant noticed a typographical error in the specification. Accordingly, Applicant deleted reference numeral "61" on page 18, line 12, and substituted therefor reference numeral - 51 -. In Claim 17, support for the amendment can be

found at lines 9-13. The cassette may be snapped on, screwed on or attached in any manner known in the art.

In the preferred embodiment illustrated in Figure 2, the lip on the closure is indicated as reference numeral 51; the cassette is adapted to snap under the lip. However, one skilled in the art, after reading how other elements are attached in the subject specification, will be able to devise additional methods of securing the cassette to the closure.

The claim amendments by Applicant generally consist of ensuring that all elements were introduced properly and to address all rejections based on a lack of antecedent basis. No claim amendments were made as a result of a rejection based on art. In fact, the Examiner has not rejected any of the claims in the present application based on art.

III. NON-ART MATTERS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner approved the drawing correction to Figure 4 made in the Reply dated November 10, 2003. Applicant has enclosed a clean copy of Figure 4 herewith.

Applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement on June 20, 2003, which included Form PTO-1449 listing three items for the Examiner to consider during the examination of the present application. Applicant's postage pre-paid postcard that accompanied the IDS was date-stamped on June 27, 2003, by the PTO indicating receipt of the IDS. However, the Examiner has failed to return an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 as requested. Applicant respectfully requests again that the Examiner return an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 as an

indication that the Examiner considered the references submitted and to ensure that the references are properly listed on any patent that may issue from the present application.

IV. CONCLUSION

Applicant wishes to again thank the Examiner for his time and consideration in reviewing this application.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite the examination procedure.

Enclosed is a self-addressed, postage pre-paid postcard for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to date stamp in order to indicate receipt of this communication.

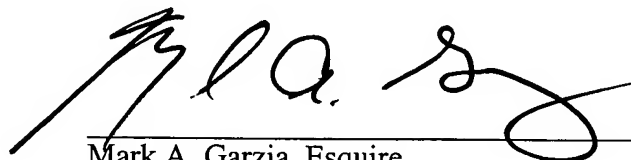
The Examiner indicated that claims 1-10, 14-16 and 21-31 are in condition for allowance. Since Applicant believes he has addressed all of the issues raised by the Examiner in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-31.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance indicating that claims 1-31 are allowed .

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth A. Alley

Date: 15 MARCH 2004



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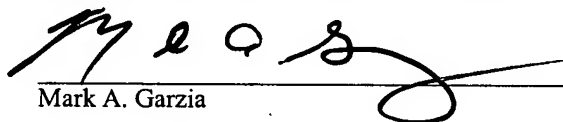
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this communication, along with any paper or fee indicated as being enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

15 MARCH 2004

Date


Mark A. Garzia